Use of insecticides in Agriculture

548. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that acceptability of Indian vegetables and other agricultural produces is very low in comparison with other countries;

(b) whether it is due to excessive use of insecticides of use of hazardous insecticides; and

(c) whether Government have identified such insecticides and if so, what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (c) Central acceptability of Indian vegetables and other agricultural products is not very low in comparison with other countries. Although there is a growing concern regarding pesticides in India is still fairly low compared to a number of other countries.

Occasionally, there have been complaints regarding high level of residues of some pesticides like DDT, BHC. Therefore, Government have taken the following measures:

(i) The use of DDT has been banned in Agriculture w.e.f. 26.5.1989.

(ii) The use of BHC has been banned on vegetables, fruits and oilseed crop as well as for preservation if foodgrains w.e.f. 30-10-1990.

(iii) The use of 12 pesticides has been banned and restrictions have been imposed on 13 pesticides.

(iv) To reduce the use of pesticides, 36 varieties in 12 vegetable crops resistant to disease and pests have been developed and recommended by All India Coordinated Research Project on vegetable Crops for cultivation in the country.

(v) Integrated Pest Management is being popularised to minimise the use of pesticides.

Prices of oilseeds

549. SHRI K. K. VEERAPPAN:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that there is a steel fall in the prices of oil seeds including coconuts; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to protect the interest of farmers engaged in the cultivation of oilseeds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) The prices of all major oilseeds, on the whole, have depicte a downtrend during 1992-93. However, prices of copra in March, 1993 ruled higher when compared with the prices in March, 1992.

(b) In order to protect the interest of oilseeds growers, the Government, based on the recommendations of Commission for Agriculture Costs and Prices has been fixing the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) at much higher levels in respect of groundnut, rapeseed/mustard, toria safflower, sunflower-seed and soyabean. Depending upon the need, the MSP of copra are also being fixed. The National Agricultural Cooperation Marketing

Federation (NAFED) has been designated as the central nodal agency for undertaking price support operations and they have already Started procurement operations.

Rice development in the country

560. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of plan for Rice Development in the country;

(b) the names of Districts alongwith number of blocks in such districts of Orissa where Special Rice Production Programme, Special Foodgrain Production Programme and Integrated Programme for Rice Development have been implemented or proposed to be implemented and achievements made so far; and

(c) the names of Basmati Rice growing Districts of Orissa and extend of Central assistance rendered so far in this connection and propose for the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Centrally Sponsored Integrated Programme for Rice Development (IPRD-I) is being implemented in 23 States and in the UT of Pondicherry for increasing the production and productivity of rice. The funding pattern under the scheme is 75:25 sharing basis between Government of India and concerned States. Through this scheme incentives are being provided to the farmers for the use of inputs like certified seeds, micronutrients, herbicides, pesticides, plant protection equipment, improved farm implements, etc. with the objects to motivate them for the adoption of improved production technology. Besides field demonstrations on farmers' heldings and training programmes for farmers and farm labourers are also being organised through the scheme.

(b) Special Rice Poduction (SRPP) was sanctioned for implementation in 69 blocks spreadover all the 13 districts of Orissa State and Special Foodgrains Production Programme (SFPP) in 116 blocks in the districts of Balasore, Cuttack, Puri, Sambalpur and Ganjam. IPRD is to be implemented in all the districts of the state covering all the developmental blocks with respect to free flowing components like distribution of seeds, pesticides, farm implements, etc. The implementation of Rice Development Programme in the State has helped in increasing the production of rice which has increased from 51.2 lakh tonnes in 1983-84 to 66.6 lakh tonnes in 1991-92.

(c) None of the districts of Orissa State is a traditional export quality Basmati rice growing district and under IPRD, provision is to provide assistance for increasing production of Basmati rice for export promotion.

Production of Foodgrains

551. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that bumper crop of wheat, rice etc. is expected in the current year;

(b) what is the estimated production of foodgrains in the country during the current year;

(c) whether it is also a fact that prices of wheat and rice have come down in the open market; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) A record production of wheat, coarse cereals and pulses is expected during